

F. L. G.

RULES
OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FOR THE
SESSION
OF
1865.

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1865.

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DUTIES OF THE SPEAKER.

1st. The Speaker shall, in his discretion, suspend irrelevant debate and command silence, whenever he may deem it needful.

2nd. In all cases of election by the House, the Speaker shall vote. In other cases, he shall not vote, unless the House shall be equally divided, or unless his vote, if given to the minority, will make the division equal, and in such case of equal division, the question shall be lost.

3rd. When two or more members shall rise at the same time, the Speaker shall name the person entitled to proceed.

4th. All Committees, consisting of not more than three members, shall be appointed by the Speaker, and those composed of a greater number, shall also be appointed by him, unless the House previously determine the contrary.

5th. The method of stating a question, or any motion by the Speaker, after the same has been read by the Clerk, shall be as follows: "All you who are in favor of the motion will say Aye—all you who are against it, say No." And when a decision may seem doubtful to the Speaker, or a division is demanded by any member of the House, the Speaker shall call upon the members in favor of the motion to rise, and after a count is had by the Clerk, he shall call upon the members to reverse their positions and the Speaker shall announce the result.

ON DECORUM AND DEBATE.

1st. When any member is about to speak in debate, or deliver any matter to the House, he shall rise from his seat and respectfully address himself to Mr. Speaker. He shall be confined to the matter in debate, shall not speak more than twice on any one subject, or more than once until every member choosing to speak shall have spoken. If any member in speaking or otherwise transgress the rules of

the House, the Speaker shall or may call to order; in which case the member so called to order shall immediately sit down, unless permitted to explain; the House shall, if appealed to, decide; and if the decision of the House be not submitted to, the delinquent, for the first offence, shall be reprov'd—for the second, fined in a sum not exceeding ten dollars; and continuing refractory, may be expelled from the House.

2nd. The members of the House shall forbear from private conversation, and preserve silence until a speaking member shall have taken his seat, nor shall the language be perverted by which his thoughts are communicated.

3rd. The members shall avoid naming each other when they may have occasion to take notice of their observations, but may designate them by the place in which they may be, or the county they represent.

4th. No member shall be permitted to vote on any claim he may prefer against the State.

5th. No member shall pass between the Chair and a member while he is speaking, nor shall any, at the time of adjournment, leave his seat until the Speaker retires.

6th. In all elections, except for Committees, a majority of the members present shall be necessary to a choice.

7th. Any member may call for a division of the question on a subject in which the sense thereof will admit of it.

8th. The previous question, viz: "Shall the main question be now put?" shall only be admitted when demanded by a majority of the members present, and on the previous question there shall be no debate.

9th. The motion for the previous question shall take precedence of all other motions, except a motion to postpone indefinitely or to lay on the table; and when it is moved, the first question shall be: "Shall the motion for the previous question be sustained?" If decided in the affirmative, the House shall then proceed to act on the main question.

10th. When a subject is before the House for consideration, no motion shall be received but to adjourn; to lie on the table; to postpone indefinitely; to postpone to a day certain; to commit, or to amend; which several motions shall have precedence in the order they stand here arranged. The motion for adjournment the second time shall be out of order, until the question before the House is first disposed of.

11th. No member shall smoke in the House, nor shall he converse with any one over the bar thereof.

12th. All motions, except for committment, adjournment, or the previous question, shall be in writing, and the yeas and nays on any question shall, at the desire of one-fifth of the members present, be entered on the journal.

13th. When a message shall be sent to the House of Representatives, it shall be announced at the door of the House by the Door-Keeper, and be respectfully communicated to the Chair by the person by whom it may be sent.

14th. It shall be the order of the day on every Wednesday to take up and decide on reports of Committees on Petitions, and that all petitions be numbered as they are received, taken up and disposed of in the order they were received.

15th. Any motion containing new matter shall lie at least one day on the table; nor shall any bill, ordinance, resolution or other matter in any shape, be brought before the House a second time, during the same session, after a determination has been had thereof, except by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

16th. When the journal of the preceding day shall be read, it shall be in the power of any member to move for a reconsideration of any matter therein contained, except such matter has been reconsidered; provided such member at the time of reading such matter, shall notify the House of his intention to move such reconsideration. But in cases where the life of an individual is concerned, there may be two re-considerations.

17th. After a motion is stated by the Speaker, or read by the Clerk, it shall be deemed to be in possession of the House, but may be withdrawn at any time before the decision or amendment, on consent of the House.

18th. Any member may enter a protest against any proceeding of the House on passing any Act.

ON BILLS.

1st. It shall be in order to introduce bills, or other matter upon the call of the counties, without any previous notice having been given for that purpose; and the giving of notice for the appointment of Committees to prepare and report bills shall be dispensed with.

2d. There shall be no debate admitted upon any bill at the first reading, and on the second reading thereof, the question shall be, "Shall this bill be admitted or engrossed for a third reading?" In case of engrossment, the entry thereof shall be made by the Clerk, and the bill shall not be amendable thereafter. In case of commitment, it shall be to a Committee of the whole House, unless the House shall otherwise direct. In no case shall a bill be committed until after a second reading, but the same may be withdrawn at any stage thereof, by consent of the House.

3rd. No bill shall be transmitted to the Senate on the day of the passage thereof, unless two-thirds of the members present shall so order.

4th. The House shall entertain no Bill or Amendment to a Bill proposing to grant corporate powers and privileges to private companies, except to Banking, Insurance, Railroad, Canal, Plank Road, Navigation, Mining, Express, Lumber and Telegraph Companies, nor to make or change election precincts, nor to establish bridges and ferries, nor to change names of legitimate children.

5th. No Bill shall be entertained by the House which contains more than one subject matter, or contains matter different from what is expressed in the title thereof.

MISCELLANEOUS RULES OF THE HOUSE.

1st. On all questions, whether in Committee or in the House, the last amendment, the most distant day, and the largest sum shall be put first.

2d. All proceedings touching the appropriation of money shall be first considered in Committee of the Whole House.

3d. When a message from the Senate or from the Executive is announced at the door of the House, by the Door-Keeper or Messenger, all business shall be suspended until the same is respectfully communicated to the Chair by the person bringing it.

4th. A simple majority may call up a paper ordered to lie on the table for consideration.

5th. Applause or hisses in the Representative Chamber, or in the galleries or lobby, during any speech or legislative proceedings, shall be promptly suppressed.

6th. During the reading of the yeas and nays on any question, no debates shall be had.

7th. Any member presenting a petition, memorial or remonstrance, shall, as concisely as practicable, intimate the name and object of the petitioner, memorialist or remonstrant, which shall be noticed on the Journal and the paper may then be referred without reading.

8th. In case of division upon any question, those in the affirmative shall first rise and be counted, and then those in the negative.

9th. The Speaker may, during a day's sitting, name any member to perform the duties of the Chair during any part of that sitting, but no longer.

10th. No member shall vote on any question in the event of which he is immediately and particularly interested, or in any case where he was not present when the question was put, unless by permission of the House.

11th. Upon the call of the members, ordinary or extraordinary, the names of the absentees shall be noted, to be dealt with as the House may direct; and the absence of

leave obtained shall be particularly noted.

12th. The several standing committees of the House shall have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

13th. The Clerk of the House shall take an oath for the true and faithful discharge of the duties of his office, to the best of his knowledge and abilities, and shall be deemed to continue in office until another be appointed.

14th. The Clerk shall take especial care of the books provided for the use of the House.

15th. The Joint Committee of Enrollment shall carefully compare enrolled bills and resolutions, and correcting any errors that may be discovered in the enrolled bills, or other papers, make their report forthwith to the respective Houses.

16th. The call of the counties, in alphabetical order, shall take place on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays only.

17th. The Rules of this House shall in no case be suspended, nor shall the order of business be changed, except by a vote of three-fourths of the members present.

18th. After the announcement of the standing committees, no new members shall be added thereto by the House, unless it be at the request of a majority of the committee to be added thereto.

THE ORDER OF BUSINESS SHALL BE AS FOLLOWS:

1st. The unfinished business in which the House was engaged at the adjournment of a preceding day, shall have the preference in the orders of the day, after the call of the counties, unless otherwise ordered.

2d. Orders of the day.

3d. Bills for a third Reading.

4th. Bills for a second Reading.

5th. Resolutions.

6th. Bills of the Senate for the 1st; 2d and 3d Readings.

Among the bills passed by the late Confederate Congress are the following:

An Act to provide for the more efficient transportation of troops, supplies and munitions of war, upon the railroads, steamboats and canals, in the Confederate States, and to control telegraph lines employed by Government.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That the transportation of troops, army supplies, munitions of war, military property, and stores throughout the Confederate States, shall be under the immediate control of the Secretary of War, and such officers and agents as he may designate; and he shall be authorized to place under the control of such officers and agents, all the officers, agents, and employees of such railroads and steamboats, so as to secure regular, expeditious, safe and orderly transportation of the men and property aforesaid, on the different lines of rail, and of steamboat and canal navigation. He may direct the repair of any railroad, and the preparation of any equipment that may at any time be required for it, and establish such rules and regulations for the use of the roads, and for the manning of the boats, as may be necessary for the accomplishment of the objects proposed by this act; and all the persons engaged upon the roads and boats while under the control of the Government shall be subject as if serving with arms in the field.

Sec. 2. That the Secretary of War be and he is authorized to furnish such railroads companies in money, material, assistance, or other things that may be necessary to secure more efficiency, and charging the same in the settlement with the same on principles of equity and justice.

Sec. 3. That the President shall appoint three commissioners to ascertain and assess any damage any railroad company, or proprietor, owner or owner of any steamboat, or other boat, may sustain by the operation of this act, and the same to be paid from the appropriations for the operation that Congress shall make; and the said commissioners shall be paid from the same appropriation, the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars per month with rations and transportation, while they are so employed: Provided, that no person subject to military duty shall be appointed a commissioner under this act.

Sec. 4. After the passage of this act, when the Secretary of War shall take charge of any railroad, canal or telegraphic line, the officers, agents and employees of such company, or companies, shall be considered as forming part of the staff for use of the Confederacy, and as serving with arms in the field, while such road, canal or telegraphic line is employed for the use of the Government.

Sec. 5. This act shall continue in force one year from the date of its passage, unless the war be sooner ended.

Approved Feb. 28 1865.

Relief in cases of investments in four per cent bonds.

"Whereas, Many executors, administrators, guardians, trustees, &c., have invested the money of orphans and minors in four per cent. Confederate bonds, which are worth but forty cents on the dollar in currency; and whereas incalculable injury and irreparable loss is likely to ensue to orphans and minors in consequence thereof; therefore,

"Resolved, That the Committee on Ways and Means be instructed to enquire into the propriety of devising some means to secure them against loss, by authorizing them to exchange said bonds for other securities, or by such other means as will most likely prevent such loss, and report by bill or otherwise, at the earliest practicable moment."

Bill to Punish Absentees in the Army.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That every General Commanding a department or separate army in the field, is hereby required to drop from the rolls any officer absent, without authority for a longer period than thirty days.

That any regimental officer, who, in the opinion of the General Commanding the department or separate army to which he belongs, shall wilfully and carelessly neglect the command or control of his unit, or exhibit an undue laxity of discipline, shall be punished by suspension from his rank and from all pay and allowances for such time, and no extension, as the General Commanding the department or the army may prescribe. That any officer guilty of the above offenses shall be liable to be degraded to another rank, or to be cashiered, or to be sentenced to imprisonment, or to be sentenced to death, or to be sentenced to any other punishment, as the General Commanding the department or the army may prescribe.

or private, who shall desert from any, shall, in addition to the penalties now provided by law, have his name recorded in the Adjutant General's office, upon a special list, and be subject to be sent for the purpose of being arrested, and to be sent to the Governor of the respective State, or to the General in command of a military department, or to the field.

A LETTER FROM THE CHIEF COMMISSARY.

Office Chief Commissary,

Augusta, Ga. April 3, 1865.

Editors Constitutionalist:

I having been applied to for permits to allow shipments of family supplies on railroads leading to this point, these permits have been refused for the simple reason that I have no power to permit a thing over which I have no particle of authority, to grant the permit would imply a right to prohibit. I know of no law which gives to the Chief Commissary or any of his subordinate officers any right to control the railroad transportation unless private freight is being carried in preference to Government freight, and then it is a question to be settled with railroad officers, and not with private citizens. The only right which I have not common to every citizen is to impress when I cannot purchase at market rates the supplies necessary for the army, and from this power "family supplies" are expressly excepted.

It is my desire that officers under me should exercise the powers granted by law to enable them to feed the army, and at the same time carefully to avoid any interference with the rights of the citizens not essentially necessary to the discharge of their duties, and strictly delegated to them by the laws of the land. While I shall endeavor to avoid impressment wherever it can be avoided, it is proper that I should state to the people of Georgia that there is at this time a distressing pressure upon our armies for the food necessary to sustain life, and I earnestly appeal to all good citizens to bring forward their surplus and sell it to the Commissaries throughout the State. These supplies will be paid for in certificates of indebtedness receivable for taxes. This is all that we have to pay with. Without food an organized army cannot be kept together—without an organized army our country must be overrun by the enemy and plundered by guerrillas. To avoid this, self interest (ignoring patriotism altogether) ought to induce the people to feed an army sacrificing so much to the maintenance of public liberty. My officers are instructed to collect supplies as rapidly as possible, that I may have them forwarded to the armies of Tennessee and North Virginia. Should any part of the people fail to sell the surplus voluntarily, impressment will have to be made. I make no appeal beyond a plain statement of the facts, which to all good citizens are eloquent enough. Would that they were less so.

Respectfully,

R. S. Moxas, Major,
Chief Commissary State of Georgia.

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